22: Wiedfeldt--19 F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 593, 462, 512, 533 Atayal

From the economic point of view, Atayal life is based on the cooperation of man and woman in the family. Estimated exactly, the feminine contribution is greater and more essential, as is shown by the moving lament of an Atayal widower:

No woman weaves me garments,
None brings me yams,
None brings me wood,
None brings water,
None plants the fields,
None prepares the meal
For me, starving,
None cleans my hut,
None helps me.

The activities listed here, together with the usual interruptions, keep a woman busy for almost the whole day. Without interruptions, they would take up about a third of a day. A man is busy only at intervals, and is mainly concerned with building the hut and clearing the land, and he scarcely does a twentieth or a thirtieth part of what he is capable of doing.

35: Collingwood--140 D-2 (1866) 1867 Formosan Aborigines
116, 123, 461, 512 Sek-hoan

"It will not be supposed, however, that they were without occupation. In many huts the men were asleep, but towards evening they might be seen with their nets wending their way to the beach. Others I observed engaged over some seething vessels, in which I found they were extracting oil from the bones of turtle. The women had, several of them, naked babies hanging to their bare breasts; others came in from the country with pruning-knives, and laden with large bundles of grass and lily straw, which they laid down to dry in the sun, and which it appeared was ultimately intended for the repair of the thatch. These women had cloths wound round their legs, as a protection while in the field, and broad bamboo hats hanging by their side for wear in the hot sun. Others were spinning thread or weaving cloth, while some were engaged in beating rice out of the husks, which they did by placing it in a hollow stone vessel, under which they put a mat, and then two of them beating it alternately with the end of a heavy bamboo. While some were thus engaged, the idlers allowed themselves to be amused by some of our party, who showed them little tricks, which caused hearty laughter, and which they tried their best to imitate."